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SENATE MEMORIAL 52

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Cynthia Nava

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT A WORK GROUP BE ASSEMBLED TO EVALUATE WHAT EFFECTS MAY EXIST FROM AERIAL APPLICATIONS MADE TO AGRONOMIC CROPS NEAR SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, agriculture is historically and economically important to New Mexico and its citizens and communities; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's children must be provided with a safe place to obtain an education; and

WHEREAS, schools may be located in an agricultural community; and

WHEREAS, various plant protectants and nutrients are applied to agronomic crops; and

WHEREAS, children are developing and growing during their school years and spend one-third of each day of the school year in or on school grounds; and

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1 WHEREAS, children's exposure to chemicals or toxins that
2 may trigger asthmatic or chemical sensitivity reactions should
3 be minimized; and

4 WHEREAS, the New Mexico department of agriculture has
5 regulatory authority over plant protectants and nutrients
6 applied to agronomic crops; and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexico has an agricultural aviation
8 association that represents the aerial applicators in the state
9 of New Mexico;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
11 OF NEW MEXICO that the director of the New Mexico department of
12 agriculture be requested to assemble a work group to evaluate
13 what effects may exist from aerial applications made to
14 agronomic crops near schools and formulate precautionary
15 actions to ensure that children are not being exposed to the
16 products used in aerial applications during school hours; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group consist of a
18 representative of the department of health, the department of
19 environment, the public education department, the aerial
20 applicator industry, the tools for schools good neighbor
21 program and a local school district and any other members the
22 director feels will add value to the work product; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the director report on the
24 progress of the work group to the appropriate interim
25 legislative committee no later than November 1, 2007; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor, the secretary of health, the secretary of environment, the secretary of public education, the director of the New Mexico department of agriculture and the agricultural aviation association.